

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for receiving content of an email communication within a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving information associated with the email communication, the information referencing content stored on one of a plurality of content servers on the network;

determining the one of the content servers by choosing the one of the content servers closest to an anticipated access point for the email communication, where the closest content server is determined based on a recipient's message accessing profile and the recipient's domain name;

accessing the referenced content from the one of the content servers; and displaying the email communication using the received information and the accessed content.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving information step further comprises:

analyzing the received information to determine an instruction set associated with the email communication, the instruction set having at least one reference to the content; and

executing the instruction set to display an initial part of the email communication.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the accessing step further comprises:

requesting the content in response to the step of executing the instruction set having the at least one reference to the content; and
receiving the content from the one of the content servers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the requesting step further comprises:

generating a request for the content; and
sending the request to the one of the content servers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content from the one of the content servers in a predefined streaming format.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving a stream of data representing the content from the one of the content servers and processing the received stream of data before displaying the received stream of data.

7. (Previously Amended): A system in a network for receiving an email communication, comprising:

a processor;
a display device coupled to the processor;
a communications interface coupling the processor to the network; and
the processor being operative to

receive information associated with the email communication, the information referencing content stored on one of a plurality of content servers

determine the one of the content servers by choosing the one of the content servers closest to an anticipated access point for the email communication, where the closest content server is determined based on a recipient's message accessing profile and the recipient's domain name;

access the referenced content on the one of the content servers through the communications interface, and

cause the email communication to be displayed on the display device using the received information and the accessed content.

8. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further operative to:

determine an instruction set based upon the received information, the instruction set being associated with the email communication and having at least one reference to the content; and

execute the instruction set to cause an initial part of the email communication to be displayed on the display device while the referenced content is accessed on the one of the content servers.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further operative to generate a request for the content and send the request to the one of the content servers through the communications interface.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication interface is operative to receive the requested content in a predefined streamed format from the one of the content servers.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the communications interface is further operative to provide the content in the predefined streamed format to the processor; and

wherein the processor is further operative to receive the content from the communications interface and process the content to cause the content to be displayed on the display device.

12. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for receiving an email communication using a plurality of content servers within the network, which when executed, the instructions comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one reference to content associated with the email communication

storing the content on one of the content servers closest to an anticipated access point for the email communication, where the closest content server is determined based on a recipient's message accessing profile and the recipient's domain name;

receiving a basic amount of information associated with the email communication;

displaying a first part of the email communication using the basic amount of information;

accessing the content on the one of the content servers; and

displaying a second part of the email communication using the accessed content.

13. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of displaying the first part of the email communication further comprises displaying a background color of the email communication.

14. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of displaying the first part of the email communication further comprises displaying an animated portion of the email communication.

15. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of displaying the first part of the email communication further comprises displaying a graphical representation of information on the sender of the email communication.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the accessing step further comprises:

generating a request for the content based upon the at least one reference to the content;

sending the request to the one of the content servers which locates the content; and

receiving the content from the one of the content servers.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content directly from the one of the content servers without transferring the content to another of the content servers.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content from the one of the content servers in a predefined streaming format.